

"Dedicated to Public Service"

THE RADIATOR



W6RHC
IRLP #8170
EchoLink #322788

O. Box 508 Chico, CA 95927-0508



Founded: August 13, 1939

February 2009

Coming Events

OARS GENERAL MEETING

February 13, 7:00 p.m., at Oroville Adult Education Building, Grand Avenue, behind the 7-11 store.

GEARS GENERAL MEETING

Friday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Butte County Search & Rescue Building-2591 Morrow Lane, Chico

BUTTE / GLENN ARES MEETING

January 23, at Butte County Search and Rescue Building

OARS HAM CRAM COURSE

FCC EXAMS - GEARS VEC

Sunday, April 5th, 2009 at the Butte County Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue (corner of 1st Avenue and Sherman). Written test at 2:00 p.m. For information or pre-registration call Gene WA6ZRT, (530) 345-3515.

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Picture courtesy EVARC

February 20 Meeting of GEARS is also our annual Valentine Dinner for members and guests.

The Menu: our traditional main dish of Lasagna, salad French bread and dessert.. Attendees should bring their own plates and utensils. Donations to cover costs of the dinner are always appreciated. Hope to see you all there!!

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OARS ANNOUNCES 2009 CLUB OFFICERS (Oroville Amateur Radio Society)

President:	Larry Thompson	W6LAT
Vice President	Gary Clark	KFEWO
Secretary	Daryl Autry	AF6HS
Treasurer	Dorence Young	WB6FBQ

Board of Directors:

Eric Bayer	AF6EF
Bill Cross	K6DYT
Howard Fairbanks	W6AIL
John Hunt	K7XE
Bob Oden	K6RCO

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**G.E.A.R.S. Minutes
January 16, 2009**

Program: Randall gave a presentation emergency communication and "Go Kits."

G.E.A.R.S. general meeting was called to order at 7:45pm.

Treasurer's Report: G.E.A.R.S. has a current balance of \$2,934.50. There was a total of \$102.82 in expenditures for the month and there is \$41 in cash on hand. Evelyn made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Gene seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Minutes: Gene made a motion to approve December's meeting minutes as posted in the newsletter; Evelyn seconded the motion and the motion carried. It was suggested that the secretary list the names and call signs of new/renewal members.

VEC Report: The next test session will be held February 1, 2009 at the Butte County Library, in Chico. OARS will be holding a Tech Cram Session on 1-31 and 2-1 at 0830 hours; the class will be held at the Oroville Adult school. The class will finish in time for those interested in take their exam in Chico at 2pm.

Additions to the agenda: None

New Business:

- **Valentine's Day Dinner** – The G.E.A.R.S V-day dinner will be held on 2-20; dinner will include lasagna, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Donations will be accepted in order to cover the cost of the meal. Please bring your own plates and utensils.
- **May Auction** – G.E.A.R.S. auction will be held in May. Now is the time to start thinking about any radio items that you may want to sell, give away or trade. The Auction will be held on May 15. Please remember if **YOU BRING IT** and it does not sell **YOU LEAVE WITH IT!!!**
- **June Field Day** – Field Day will be held June 26th – 28th, Friday – Sunday, at Platt Mountain look out. A Field Day Czar is needed; if you are interested please contact Randall. The OARS club has not yet decided on a location but they are anticipating being in the same spot.

Adjournment: Gene made a motion to adjourn G.E.A.R.S. January meeting; Evelyn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

G.E.A.R.S. January meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

**G.E.A.R.S. Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2009**

G.E.A.R.S. Board meeting was called to order at 8:50pm.

Members: The following memberships were approved by the Board unanimously: CJ Goodwin N6CJG-renewal; Bill Cross K6DYT- renewal; Sharon Cross KI6GWF- renewal.

Programs:

- **Valentines Day dinner-** The V-day dinner will be held on 2-20; Evelyn has volunteered to cook two lasagnas, Krista will cook the other two. Donations will be collected in order to cover the cost of the dinner.
- **March Program:** Gene will do workshop on roll up J-poles. Those interested in making J-polls should bring \$3 - \$4 to cover the cost of the materials.
- **April** – A presentation is needed for the month of April. Anyone interested in giving a presentation and/or has an idea for a presentation topic should contact Randall. In addition the Wildflower bike ride occurs the last weekend in April.
- **May G.E.A.R.S. Auction** - It was suggested that the Club purchase a high ticket raffle item in order to gain interest in the auction. Krista/Randall will write a press release for the newspaper and send notice regarding the auction to other clubs in the area.
- **Field Day, June** – Gene has volunteered to do the preliminary work in regards to Field Day. Randall volunteered to cover the onsite activities. Randall will call Mr. Brownell and ask to reserve the site for June 26th – 28th. Gene will bring the clubs generators.
- **July** – Presentation Needed.
- **GEARS Campout, August** – Randall will work on scheduling with Ray.
- **GEARS Steak bake, September:** Gene has volunteered to reserve Caper Acers, electricity will be needed. Lester will ask his son-in-law if he is available to cook in order to save the Club from Randall's charcoal steaks. ☺

440 Repeater: A man named "Shorty" has contacted Gene regarding the G.E.A.R.S. 440 repeater. Shorty owns a series of linking repeaters up and down California. He would like to know if G.E.A.R.S. would like to be linked to the WIN system. Shorty will be moving to Northern California and would like to get rid of the dead zone in Redding. If G.E.A.R.S. does not want to sell him the 440 he would be happy to place his equipment on it and provide maintenance for it. John made a motion that Shorty attend a G.E.A.R.S. meeting and present to the Board; Evelyn seconded the motion and the motion carried. Gene said that he would contact Shorty. James and John would like to go with Dick to the repeater site in order to learn the ins and outs of the repeater. Randall will do his homework on the WIN System and report to the Board.

Elmer's: It was suggested that an Elmer's group be formed to offer assistance to new HAMS. Krista will design a flyer to hand out a VEC sessions. Those interested in being an Elmer ease email Krista your name/phone number and email address.

QSE QSL

Since I was first licensed (WB6AKF) back in 1974, I have been an avid HF operator and rapid QSL'er when I made any HF contacts with any station; and paid for the return cards when I got down to the last few entries I needed. Little did I know a surprise awaited me in my mail box just before Christmas.

As soon as I saw the old envelope with my old rubber stamp and old zip code on it, I knew right away this was going to be an old card lost and finally found. I had one returned about a year ago with it being missing 10 years after being pushed off a file cabinet, landed behind it, not found until the cabinet was moved for a move to a new house.

On December 23rd 2008 I received a card from W2MYA. The envelope was marked in lower left corner with "W2MYA-20" which meant (at the time) I was going for my WAS on 20 and was going to use the contact for New Jersey.

This contact was made on November 22nd 1987 on 14.280 at 2336UTC!

Well, a lot of RF has gone down the coax since 1987 and I have 3 WAS awards, two DXCC's, one WAC, ARRL We The People WAS 200, ARRL Diamond Jubilee 75 Years, ARRL Friendship Award, and two Hiram Percy Maxim-W1AW 125 and 126 years.

Although W2MYA's card didn't count for my New Jersey contact, I did complete my 20 meter WAS in 1988 and I'm glad I got this lost card back.

Here is his letter W2MYA sent me:

"Dear Steve,

I feel very ashamed and embarrassed to return your card after a 21 year wait! It somehow got slipped into some loose papers, and while cleaning up the shack for some home repair work I've been looking thru each and every paper before discarding old material when low and behold your letter falls out with your enclosed QSL!!

You could have knocked me over when I saw the date on our QSO Steve--- you may not need it now, 21 years later, but I feel compelled to answer it, as this is the only honorable thing to do!

Perhaps I should check QRZ.com first to see if you may have moved since 1987. Please, please forgive me for not attending to this immediately Steve.

If nothing else it must set a record for the return of a QSL, a record that one would not want to brag about, for sure.

Please have a very Merry Christmas and a most happy and healthy New Year too Steve.

Hope to cu on the bands sum day again Steve."

VY 73 Greg Mitchell W2MYA

I wrote Greg a snail mail letter thanking him for the return of his QSL card of our contact back in 1987.

A lost QSL card, a return card and a nice letter, this is definitely going in to a frame and placed on my wall.

Stephen McDermott, W6AKF
stephenmcd1@comcast.net

President Randall Stone (K6RCS) gave a presentation regarding Emergency Communication “Go-Kits” prior to the January meeting. Suggested items for the

24 Hour-Pack:

Equipment:

2M or 2M/440 radio
Radio Instruction manual
Power supply and/or Battery pack
Cigarette Lighter adapter
Earphones
Speaker-mike
Headphones
Antenna adapters (coax connectors)/cables
Feed Line
Spare/Alternate antennas
-Mag mount
-Roll up J-pole
-Fixed J-pole
-5/8 rubber duck

Clothing

Jacket
Boots
Lightweight raingear
Warm clothing (preferably in layers)
Hat (Sun or Rain)

Personal:

Prescription medication
List of medications used
Tylenol
Antacid Tablets
Eye Glasses + spares
Sunglasses
Sun screen lotion
Pre-moistened towelettes
Timepiece (watch/clock/pager)
Food 9granola bars/high calorie snack)
Water
Coffee
Insect repellent
First Aid Kit

Software

Maps
Message Forms (available thro ARRL)
Notepaper
Pens/pencils
Clipboard
ARES and OES ID Badge
Ham License
Drivers License
Repeater Directory
Emergency Contact List
-ARES Roster w/phone numbers
Police/Fire
-personal numbers

Miscellaneous

Hard hat/yellow vest
Utility tool (i.e. Leatherman type)
Compass
Flashlight and flashlight batteries
Gas (keep vehicle gas tank ½ full at all times)
Calling card
Money (paper and coin)
Waterproof matches or big lighter
Zip lock bag filled with lint from dryer (this will start a fire for you within 20 seconds.)

72 Hour-Pack

Equipment

HT NiCad battery charger
Fresh Gel-cell battery
Spare fuses
VOM
Small tool box with electrical tape and mini-tools

Clothing:

Underwear, socks, two change minimum
Jeans/pants two change minimum
Shirts (two change minimum)
Alternate boots
Warm Jacket

Personal:

Hand soap
Toiletries
Toilet paper

Miscellaneous:

Cell phone
Portable AM Radio and spare batteries
Extra flashlight batteries
Light sticks
Binoculars
Sleeping bag
One person Tent
Folding Chair
Folding table
Generator/Gas
Baggies to seal and protect items
Duffle bag/Tupperware, Rubbermaid, Metal Box
(useful for keeping stuff separate and for carrying_
Small cooler chest for keeping things cold

Of course any type of Go-Kit is modifiable according to your own personal needs and desires.

No VHF SWR Meter? No Problem.

Courtesy: Dan Romanchik, KB6NU His Blog:

I subscribe to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists. One of the most interesting is the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>).

Recently, a ham asked:

"Will a CB SWR meter work on a 2 meter ham radio??" Mark, K5LXP, replied:

"Yes and no. I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however."

"If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters. What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the ANT' side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the 'XCVR' side. The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK."

"The theory is relatively simple."

"A basic SWR bridge is comprised of two couplers, each of which consist of a stripline or a pickup loop, and a detector diode. One coupler is used to detect forward power, the other reflected."

"At 27 MHz, the precision of the components required isn't too stringent.

Just about any diode will work, and minor imperfections in the stripline or pickup coils won't impact the accuracy that much."

"But at 2M suddenly minor differences between the striplines, stray capacitance, and type of diode starts to matter. By using just one of the couplers for both the forward and reverse readings any error that exists in that coupler is the same for both readings and thus cancels out. It's unlikely it'll work at 440 however, it's just too much to ask to expect a true 50 ohm network and zero bias or hot carrier diode in a cheap CB meter."

"The absolute reading on 2M may still be somewhat inaccurate, especially at high SWR but odds are you don't care about that. All you're interested in is 1:1 or as close to it as you can get, and for that the \$5 meters will be good enough."

When I asked his permission to use this, Mark said, "I don't get the credit, I picked it up from an old-timer years ago." Well, Mark, you might not get the credit for thinking this up, but you certainly get the credit for passing it on. Thanks!

Thank you KB6NU...your contributions are always welcome.

GEARS VE Exam Session for February 1st 2009

Upgrades:

Jeff L. Meyers, KD6DIS to GENERAL
Robert L. Huber, K6PWR to EXTRA

New Technicians:

John E. Welton, KI6VOR
Richard P. Hubbard, KI6VOS
Travis F. Rodgers, KI6VOQ

GEARS VEC

Gene Wright, WA6ZRT
(530) 345-3515
Wa6zrt@sbcglobal.net

GEARS REPEATER INFORMATION

The Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society owns and is responsible for two repeaters located in Forrest Ranch, California, 2800 feet above the Northern Sacramento Valley.

Two Meter

The two meter repeater is configured for solar operation. The antenna is dual band (2/440) at 90 feet. Frequency: 146.85 MHz with a minus offset. PL:110.9

450

The 450 repeater is also configured for solar power. The antenna is dual band (2/440) at 90 feet. Frequency: 440.650 with plus offset. PL: 110.9

Emergency use of the repeaters has precedence over all users at all times. Both repeaters are open, and all are welcome to use them. Please follow the FCC rules and be friendly and respectful of others using our repeaters. 450

Article compliments of Web Master Stephen McDermott:
W6AKF GEARS W6RHC



Interior View of Repeater Equip.



Installing the new repeater doors

QUARTZSITE INTERESTING INFORMATIVE

The drive from this area to Quartzsite is, of itself beautiful and geographically awesome! Then, the desert. What a contrast! but beautiful with sunny days, cold nights..

There were Quartzfest attendees in every manner of accommodations; from all states and other countries as well.

. Events are primarily structured for advancement of ham radio knowledge and experience.



AG7J checks in.....A Solar traveler



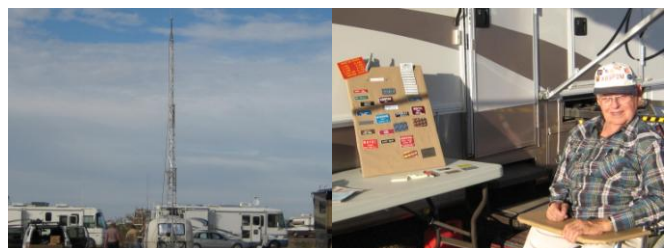
Andy & Nancy of Nova Scotia

A VE test session



Quartzsite scenery

Anderson, CA Larry Fleming N3FQ



Aluma Telescope Tower

Indiana-KB9PDM Merle Young



An outdoor seminar

Tired Quartzsite traveler

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Friday February 13	7:00 PM	Oroville Amateur Radio Society General Meeting	Oroville Adult Education Building, 78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville	John Hunt K7XE@arrl.net 530-589-4734
Sunday February 8 th	1:00 pm	Cozy Diner Paradise 520 Net Luncheon	6371 Skyway, past Pearson Rd to Fir st and Elliott then look on left between Fir Street & Elliot in Paradise	
Friday February 20	6:30 PM.	GEARS General Meeting & annual Valentine Dinner	Butte Co. Search and Rescue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Randall Stone K6RCS 530-521-1318-
February 27	7:00 p.m.	ARES	Butte County Search and Rescue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Steve Kaps N6NPN (530) 345-7142
March tbd		J Pole Program	Butte Co. Search and Rescue Bldg	To be announced
April 5 th , Sunday	2:00	VEC test: Butte Co. Library	Butte County library	GeneWright WA6ZRT 530 345 3515
April (date to be announced)	All day	Wildflower Century	Butte County area	Wildflower.com
May 15 th	6:30 p.m.	GEARS annual Auction! Plan Ahead everybody	Butte County Search and Rescue Bldg.	Randall Stone K6RCS 530 521 1318
June 5-7	Daily	SeaPac Ham Convention	Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon	http://seapac.org
June 26, 27, 28	Daily	Field Day	Platt Mountain-Lookout	Randall Stone
August (dba)	Daily	Campout	Lassen Church Camp	Tba
September 18	5:00 pm	Steak Bake	Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park	TBA
October 16	6:30	GEARS meeting Nominations for 2010 Officers	Butte County Search and Rescue Building, Chico	Randall Stone K6RCS
November 20	6:30 p.m.	Nominations published	Butte County Search and Rescue Building, Chico	Randall Stone K6RCS
December	5:30 p.m.	Election Officers Dinner & gift exchange	Butte County Search and Rescue Building	Randall Stone K6RCS
Wednesday March 2nd		The Radiator Submission Deadline For articles to publish	Dorothy Post, P O Box 786, Orland, 95963 email dj@posthouse.us	Dorothy Post (530) 865 0260

The Gears Newsletter Staff

Printing Suzanne Jessen KG61ZM
Distribution.....Suzanne Jessen
Website Stephen McDermott
W6AKF

The Radiator is a monthly publication of the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS). It is the policy of the Editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio, of interest to GEARS members and space is available. Please send all submissions to the Editor Dorothy Post by the last day of the month through one of the following mediums:

Home: P O Box 786 Orland, Ca. 95963 (530) 865-0260

Email: dj@posthouse.us (indicate GEARS in subject line)

Club Officers:

President: Randall Stone K6RCS
 Vice President.....James Hilton.....K16KNZ
 Secretary Krista Gallwitz K6KEG
 Treasurer.....Lester Mikeworth KG6KUO
 Past President.....Ray Watkins.....K06TW
 Director.....Gene Wright.....WA6ZRT
 Director.....John Post.....AG7J
 Director.....Evelyn Weir.....K6QXC

Club Meetings:

General Meeting....Third Friday.....6:30 p.m.
 Board Meeting Third Friday 9:00 p.m.

Club Net

Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. 146.850 MHz

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net

Nightly 8:00 p.m. 146.850MHz

ARES Net

Butte Glenn Mondays 8:00 p.m. 146.850 MHz
 Yuba Sutter Thursdays 7:00 p.m. 146.085 MHz
 Meetings Fourth Friday 7:00 p.m.

Other Nets

Sac Valley 7:00 p.m. 2nd Wed of month 146.085
 Section Net

F440 Wed. 8:00 p.m. 440.650

520 Simplex 8:00 p.m. Thursdays.....146.520 MHz

Golden Bear 7:00 p.m. Daily 3975 kHz

Willie Net 8:00 p.m. Mondays 1930 kHz

Western Public Service System (WPSS)

Winter 5:00-7:30 p.m. 3952 kHz

Summer 6:00-8:30 p.m. 3952 kHz

ARISS (International Space Station)

Uplink 144.490 MHz.....

What to do to get your Radiator to Print Properly on your Printer.

Some of us are experiencing problems with getting the first page to print the sidebar when we try to print the Radiator.

Steve McDermott W6AKF studied the problem and provides the following solution:

Make sure you have The Radiator PFD file on your screen. Place your cursor on the Printer icon in the upper left hand corner for your screen. (click on it.)

You should now see a Print screen.

Comments and Forms: Document

Subset: all pages in Range

Page Scaling: Fit to printable area.

Place your cursor on Advanced, it's down in the lower left corner (click on it) I should show Advanced Print Set up.

Select: Print as Image, then press OK. The screen will return to the Print screen.

This should take care of the page1 missing information.

Thank you Steve. It has worked for all of us who have tried your solution!

ITEMS FOR SALE

(A) 10 meter transmitter receiver with two mikes (one is a combination speaker mike); & with antenna; & power supply for base station; Radio Shack model.

(B) CB radio with antenna

**Contact: KENT JORGENSEN
 KF60NI
 (530) 343-6879**

DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

THE RADIATOR

GOLDEN EMPIRE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC

W6RHC IRLP #8170

P O BOX 508 Chico, CA 95927

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

41¢

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